



*Mansfield Middle School Association*

*February 6, 2013 Minutes*

**In Attendance:** Thanh Nguyen (TG), Kristina Lee (KL), Diane Briody (DB) Marie Hodrinsky (MGH), Lisa Drzewiecki (LD), Melissa Belden (MB), Ruth Washington (RW), Kate Donnelly (KD), Mark LaPlaca (ML), Fred Baruzzi (FB)

1. **Call to Order:**

- D. Briody called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
- Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

2. **Special Guest Speaker(s):**

- Fred Baruzzi (superintendent of Mansfield schools) and Mark LaPlaca (Chairman of the Mansfield Board of Education) have been visiting the Mansfield schools to let parents know what is being discussed and done in wake of the recent school shooting in Newtown. Fred spoke first and commended our teachers and school staff for doing such a great job in the days and weeks following this recent tragedy.
  - The local fire marshal, Fran Raiola, and police chief, Rich Cormier, have performed safety inspections on all schools.
  - The BOE have been collecting information and asking for community input on school safety issues/questions. They will start to address these issues at their next BOE meeting along with addressing how to increase/improve safety.
  - State police officers have made Mansfield schools part of their daily 'rounds' and are patrolling both inside and outside school grounds.
- Kate Donnelly was the guest speaker this month. She did a presentation on the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program which is a grant given to 14 towns to reduce energy consumption. They offer energy assessments on your home that run from \$75 - \$90 (depending on heating type). Once an assessment is done on a home they are eligible for various rebates. The town also receives 'rewards' each time an energy assessment is done. If a PTA participates in this program they'll get \$25 for completed energy assessment.
  - Post-Meeting Note: Kate sent DB and MGH an email outlining this program. They will discuss with the MMSA members and decide if we'll participate.
- Kate also discussed the 'Solarize' program that Windham and Mansfield are a part of. One solar installer will be chosen so that a bulk discount can be applied. She explained that the rebates and incentives will go down as time goes by from federal and state so that now is a good time to move on having solar installations done. Kate is looking for people who already have residential solar installations at their homes to act as 'solar ambassadors'.

3. **Approval of the minutes:**

- Melissa Belden made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/15/2012 and Marie Hodrinsky seconded the motion.

#### 4. **Officer Reports:**

- **President, Diane Brody:** Diane brought in Box Tops already organized in packs. She indicated that Melissa Ottman's class will organize them but said we needed a volunteer to collect those packs and send them in for our school. Melissa Belden volunteered. Diane will send Melissa the school id and contact information. 3/1 is the next rolling deadline.
- **Vice-president, Marie Hodrinsky:** Marie announced that the Equal Exchange fundraiser from Nov/Dec 2012 was a success. It brought in a little over \$1100 for the MMSA. She mentioned the Munson's Fundraiser is just about to 'kick-off'. She indicated that a newsletter did not go out in January but that we are back on track for February's to go out with progress reports.
- **Treasurer, Lisa Drzewiecki:** Lisa indicated there is ~\$5700 in the MMSA checking account. She added that the last round of Scrip brought in \$259 in profit.
- **Secretary, Sand Hill:** *Not in attendance.*

#### 5. **Administrator's Report:**

- Thanh shared that author Mike Lupica came to MMS on 2/6 and that it was a fun and energizing experience for all. Mike reinforced to the students what the MMS teachers impart about reading. Mike also took time to do one on one's with some students to talk about writing.
- The Model Congress passed a bill about tutoring. ~36 8<sup>th</sup> graders are now volunteering to tutor 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Kudos to Mrs. Stratton for helping to facilitate.
- The robotics group will attend a robotics competition in Anaheim, CA from 4/16 – 4/19
- Boys and Girls basketball playoffs began yesterday. The girls won and will continue on and play Coventry on 2/7 @5pm in Windham.
- A director for this year's play has been hired. He's a former high school teacher. He'll be looking for behind the scenes support from parents. At the next MMSA meeting the dates should be firmed up

#### 6. **Faculty Report:** (Kristina Lee)

- History Day: ~112 students will participate. On 2/28 MMS will have 'practice' from 6-8pm. The District History Day will be on 3/23. Kristina informed the group that they will be looking for judges and to contact Kelly Brouse with questions and to volunteer. The Altieri's will cater the food for the district day and are looking for volunteers to 'pass down' their experience to for next year. The robotics club will run the concessions.
- Math Counts competition was on 12/22. Mathletes competed that day and sent their top mathletes to the Regional Math Competition. MMS had several students attend.

#### 7. **Old Business:**

#### 8. **New Business:**

- **History Day:** addressed above

- **EO Smith Scholarship for graduation:** MMSA donates \$350 each year. We have an option choose a recipient and/or define the criteria for the award. The deadline to donate is 4/21. Diane will bring the letter from EO Smith to the next MMSA meeting for further discussion
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion:** Discussion about how typically 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents volunteer for this and how Sue Kaeser has expressed interest in leading this. It was decided that we have some time for further discussion so we'll carry this discussion forward to next meeting.

9. **Other Business:**

- Fundraising:
  - Mixed Bag: will be done in Fall of 2013
  - Box Tops: ongoing (Melissa Belden will now coordinate and send in to company)
  - Munson's Candy: Start week of 2/11. A Q-notify will be sent.
  - T-shirts: this will be ongoing and Lisa will get us the name of the local company we'd like to consider using.
  - Post Meeting Note: An email was distributed to the MMSA asking us if we'd like to work in conjunction with the Student Council's talent show to do a silent auction fundraiser. We declined as none of the MMSA members have the time to commit at this point.

10. **Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11

*Our next meeting is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. A request for agenda items will be sent about one week prior to the meeting with the final agenda to follow.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marie Hodrinsky*

*Vice-president (pending approval at our next meeting)*